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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

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1 **I. INTRODUCTION**

2 Defendant Ultimate Blackjack Tour, LLC's has failed to meet its burden of establishing a
3 substantial question of non-infringement, invalidity or unenforceability. As properly construed,
4 Defendant admits that every limitation of the '154 patent claims is present in the game tournaments
5 hosted on Defendant's Web sites. Defendant's flawed non-infringement argument is based upon an
6 unsupported interpretation that rewrites the claim, in part, and ignores other key terms of the claim. It is
7 also based upon an intentional concealment and mischaracterization about the operation of its Web sites.
8 Once the Court properly concludes that Defendant's claim construction lacks substantial merit and fully
9 understands how Defendant's Web sites truly operate, the Court will undoubtedly agree that Defendant's
10 Web sites infringe the claims of the '154 patent. Because of its indisputable infringement, Defendant is
11 left to create unsupported defenses of invalidity, inequitable conduct and unclean hands. As explained
12 below, all of these defenses lack substantial merit.

13 Regarding Defendant's invalidity defenses, all of the references relied upon by Defendant fail to
14 render any of the claims invalid, by anticipation or obviousness. It is indisputable that each reference
15 cited by Defendant fails to individually disclose all of the limitations of the '154 patent claims.
16 Therefore, they cannot anticipate the claims of the '154 patent as a matter of law. Defendant's
17 obviousness defense also lacks substantial merit. Defendant's expert, Mr. Rosenthal, fails to compare
18 the differences between the prior art and the '154 patent claims or to explain how the references could be
19 combined. Instead, Mr. Rosenthal simply concludes that the references "are so related" that there is a
20 clear motivation to combine them. Mr. Rosenthal is wrong. The references actually teach away from
21 their combination.

22 Regarding Defendant's inequitable conduct defense, Mr. Rosenthal completely mischaracterizes
23 the prosecution history of the '154 patent. Both of the references that Defendant contends Plaintiff
24 intentionally failed to disclose were indisputably submitted by Plaintiff to the Patent Office at the
25 beginning of the prosecution of the '154 patent. Indeed, Plaintiff submitted hard copies of every
26 reference cited in its IDS, including the two references Defendant claims Plaintiff "purposefully
27 prevent[ed] the Examiner from considering." Moreover, the disclosure of one of the two references,
28 which Defendant argued were not considered by the Examiner, was actually considered by the Examiner.

1 In fact, with respect to that reference Plaintiff submitted both the published application and the
 2 corresponding issued patent, which the Examiner considered and concluded was immaterial. In its haste
 3 to create this inequitable defense, Defendant blatantly overlooked this important detail. There was
 4 absolutely no failure by the applicants to disclose material prior art to the Patent Office, let alone
 5 intentional failure. In short, Defendant's inequitable conduct defense fails as a matter of law.

6 Like its inequitable conduct defense, Defendant's unclean hands defense amounts to nothing
 7 more than a desperate attempt by Defendant to create a defense to counter Plaintiff's overwhelming
 8 showing on the likelihood of success. As explained by its CEO, Mr. Kellerman, Plaintiff has spent
 9 hundreds of thousands of dollars to obtain multiple opinions from several of the world's leading gaming
 10 attorneys on the legality of its Web site. Plaintiff is submitting the opinion of one of these attorneys who
 11 confirms the legality of Plaintiff's web site. Not surprisingly, Defendant has retained several of the same
 12 attorneys to advise it on the legality of its Web sites.

13 In support of its argument that the balance of hardships weighs in its favor, Defendant relies upon
 14 the Declaration of Sanford I. Millar, Defendant's Chief Operating Officer, Chief Financial Officer and
 15 General Counsel. Surprisingly, Mr. Millar's declaration actually supports Plaintiff's conclusions that the
 16 balance of hardships weigh in Plaintiff's favor. Mr. Millar vehemently argues that the online game
 17 tournaments Defendant offers on its Web sites are "incidental" to the promotion of its primary business,
 18 which is the sale of its magazine, provision of expert tips and promotion of its television show. In view
 19 of these admissions, Defendant would not suffer undue harm to its business if its online tournaments that
 20 are at issue in this case are enjoined. As Plaintiff explained in its opening brief, Defendant can still offer
 21 its customers online tournaments that do not pay out cash or merchandise. Defendant's purported \$15
 22 million loss is illusory and unsupportable. Defendant also relies on this estimated loss as a basis for its
 23 excessive bond request. Since this loss is pure speculation, this Court should not require a bond in this
 24 excessive amount.

25 In short, Plaintiff has unequivocally demonstrated that Defendant's Web sites infringes the
 26 claims of the '154 patent and that Defendant's invalidity, inequitable conduct and unclean hands
 27 defenses lack substantial merit. Because of the high likelihood of success on the merits, irreparable
 28 harm is presumed in this case. Even if not presumed, Plaintiff has demonstrated that it would be

1 irreparably harmed in this case since this is not a simple “loss of market share” case. For these reasons,
 2 the Court should grant Plaintiff’s motion for a preliminary injunction.

3

4 II. ARGUMENT

5

6 A. DEFENDANT’S WEB SITES LITERALLY 7 INFRINGE THE CLAIMS OF THE ‘154 PATENT

8 Defendant argues that its Web sites do not infringe the claims of the ‘154 patent because they do
 9 not meet the claim limitation of “disbursing the prize pool to the winning player and any eligible runner-
 10 up players in the form of prizes that have immediate value, subsequent to completion of the
 11 tournament.” (Docket Item [“D.I.”] 14, pp. 9-10 of 20.) In making this argument, Defendant
 12 completely misconstrues the meaning of this claim limitation and, in fact, attempts to rewrite it in an
 13 attempt to create a non-infringement defense.

14 To that end, Defendant and its expert, Mr. Rosenthal, argue that this claim limitation requires
 15 that the winning player and “all” runner-up players must receive their prizes after the tournament is over.
 16 (D.I. 14, p. 10.) However, the term “all” does not appear in the claim and the term “any” does not mean
 17 “all” as properly construed. Indeed, according to Webster’s Ninth new Collegiate Dictionary 10th Ed.
 18 1988, “any” means “one or more – used to indicate an undetermined number or amount.”

20 In addition to rewriting the claim to replace “any” with “all,” Defendant ignores significant terms
 21 of claims 1 and 5. Indeed, Defendant ignores the term “eligible,” which further modifies “any.” As used
 22 in claims 1 and 5 of the ‘154 patent, “any eligible runner-up players” means any qualified runner-up
 23 player. This would include the scenario where there are no runner-up players that are qualified to receive
 24 a prize and only the winner receives a prize. Defendant also ignores the terms “prizes that have
 25 immediate value.” (D.I. 9-2. p. 15, col. 11, lines 54-55.) As properly construed in view of the
 26 specification, “prizes that have immediate value” means cash or merchandise.

27 Thus, as properly construed, the “disbursing the prize pool . . .” limitation recited in claims 1 and
 28 5 of the ‘154 patent means paying out cash or merchandise to the winner and any runner-up player, if any
 qualify, after the tournament is over.

1 Defendant's entire non-infringement argument is based upon an incomplete and disingenuous
 2 description of the operation of its Web sites. Defendant would have this Court focus only on the
 3 "points" that are awarded to the runner-up players. (D.I. 14, pp. 9-10.) However, what Defendant fails to
 4 disclose to the Court is that for the tournaments at issue in this litigation, the winner, at the very least,
 5 receives a prize that has immediate value, i.e., cash or merchandise. Defendant's omission here is
 6 critical because the winner's cash prize is paid out after the tournament is over. According to the
 7 Frequently Asked Questions posted on Defendant's Web Sites:

8 When you win cash and/or merchandise, we will send you an e-mail with
 9 instructions on how to claim your prize. . . When we receive all
 10 information that is needed we will ship your prize. You should expect this
 within 2-4 weeks. (Supplemental Noah Decl. ["Supp. Decl."], Exhibit D.)

11 In order to camouflage its infringement, Defendant provides a self-serving example from its Web
 12 site where there is only one cash-winner, i.e., the tournament winner, and all runner-up players only
 13 receive points. In Defendant's example, the winner receives \$20 + 250 TPs (tournament points), the first
 14 runner-up player receives 225 TPs, the second runner-up player receives 200 TPs, the third runner-up
 15 player receives 175 TPs, and etc. (D.I. 17-13, p. 2.) There are no runner-up players "eligible" to receive
 16 cash in this example. As explained above, Defendant focuses only on the tournament points awarded to
 17 the runner-up players in its non-infringement analysis which is completely misleading. Conspicuously
 18 absent from Defendant's analysis of this example is any mention of the \$20 cash prize the winner
 19 receives, which according to its FAQs, is awarded to the winner within 2-4 weeks after the tournament.
 20 Because the winner receives cash after the tournament is over, the tournament illustrated in this exhibit
 21 to Mr. Rosenthal's declaration infringes the claims of the '154 patent.

22 If Defendant truly wanted to be candid with the Court, it would have provided an example where
 23 multiple runner-up players were qualified to receive cash prizes. Attached as Exhibit E to the
 24 Supplemental Declaration of Todd Noah is an example of such a tournament from Defendant's Web site.
 25 As the Court can plainly see in the example, the cash pool prize is \$200. The winner receives \$75 + 2000
 26 TPs, the first runner-up player receives \$25 + 1500 TPs, the second runner-up player receives \$25 +
 27 1250 TPs, and the third runner-up player receives \$20 + 1000 TPs. Thus, there is a winner and three
 28 qualified runner-up players that will receive cash prizes. (Supp. Noah Decl., Exhibit E.) As explained

1 in the FAQs on Defendant's Web site, the winner and these qualified runner-up players will receive their
 2 cash prizes within 2-4 weeks after the tournament. This tournament infringes the claims of the '154
 3 patent.

4 Once the Court understands that in the tournaments at issue in this case, the winners, and in
 5 many cases a runner-up player or players, receive cash or merchandise prizes in addition to tournament
 6 points, then it becomes clear that every tournament that pays out cash or merchandise to at least the
 7 winner supports a finding of infringement. It also becomes clear that Defendant's deceptive statement
 8 that "UBT disburses prizes *to only one* runner-up player subsequent to the completion of the
 9 tournament" actually supports a finding of infringement since the winner and one runner-up player are
 10 admittedly paid out cash subsequent to the completion of the tournament. (D.I. 14, p. 10.) Defendant
 11 does not dispute that every other limitation of claims 1 and 5 is present its system. (D.I. 14, pp. 9-11.)
 12 (D.I. 17, p. 7, ¶ 29.) As a result, Plaintiff has demonstrated a likelihood of success on the issue of
 13 infringement.

14

15 **B. NONE OF THE PRIOR ART CITED BY DEFENDANT
 16 RENDERS THE CLAIMS OF THE '154 PATENT INVALID**

17 As the Court knows, "[i]n the context of a preliminary injunction, while 'the burden of proving
 18 invalidity is with the party attacking validity,' the party seeking the injunction 'retain[s] the burden of
 19 showing a reasonable likelihood that the attack on its patent's validity would fail.'" *Oakley, Inc. v.*
Sunglass Hut International, 316 F.3d 1331, 1339 (Fed.Cir. 2003)(citations omitted). "While it is not the
 20 patentee's burden to prove validity, the patentee must show that the alleged infringer's defense lacks
 21 substantial merit." *Oakley, Inc.*, 316 F.3d at 1340, quoting *New Eng. Braiding Co. v. A.W. Chesterson*
Co., 970 F.2d 878, 883 (Fed. Cir. 1992). As set forth in detail below, Plaintiff has unequivocally
 22 established that the Defendant's invalidity defenses lack substantial merit. In fact, they have no merit at
 23 all. Thus, Plaintiff has met its burden of showing that Defendant's attack on the validity of the '154
 24 patent will fail.

25

26 **1. Each of the References Cited By Defendant
 27 Fails to Anticipate the Claims of the '154 Patent**

28 A determination that a claim is invalid as being anticipated or lacking novelty requires a finding

1 that each and every limitation of the claim is disclosed in a single prior art reference. *Oakley, Inc.*, 316
 2 F.3d at 1339. Thus, even if one of the limitations is not disclosed in the reference, the reference fails to
 3 anticipate as a matter of law. *Id.* None of the references cited by Defendant discloses each and every
 4 limitation of the ‘154 patent claims and therefore each of them fail to anticipate the claims of the ‘154
 5 patent.

6 **a. BugsysClub, PokerSchoolOnline and PokerPages**

7 It is critical to note at the outset that Defendant has misled this Court by treating the BugsysClub,
 8 PokerSchoolOnline and PokerPages Web sites as a single reference. They are not the same Web sites.
 9 In fact, they are three very different product offerings. As the Frequently Asked Questions for
 10 BugsysClub, PokerSchoolOnline and PokerPages reference expressly indicates, “Each site offers
 11 different promotions and has a distinct focus.” (D.I. 17-5, p. 4.) Bugsysclub.com was a “play for
 12 money” only gambling site with no free play, Pokerpages.com was a free play site only and
 13 Pokerschoolonline.com was a subscription site with no free play. Despite this clear delineation, Mr.
 14 Rosenthal has improperly selected features from each of these sites as if they were contained in a single
 15 Web site. (See D.I. 17, p. 9, ¶¶ 42-88.) As a result, Mr. Rosenthal’s declaration is completely without
 16 merit regarding the disclosures of these three Web sites since he has improperly combined features of all
 17 three as if they were one. Mr. Rosenthal violated a fundamental tenet of the law of anticipation which
 18 requires that each and every limitation of the claims be found in a single piece of prior art. Once the
 19 Court recognizes that these were three distinct Web sites, it will unequivocally conclude that none of
 20 these Web sites anticipates the claims of the ‘154 patent.

21 **i. BugsysClub.com**

22 All of the claims of the ‘154 patent require the step of “establishing a subscription-based
 23 membership for each player of the plurality of players by charging each player a fee for a pre-determined
 24 membership time period.” The Bugsysclub.com Web site did not establish a subscription-based
 25 membership by charging a fee for a predetermined period of time. Rather, players could register at the
 26 Bugsysclub.com Web site and create a deposit account to use for a buy-in. There was no requirement on
 27 the amount of money that the user had to deposit into the account. (D.I. 17-5, p. 5.) (“Decide how much
 28 you want to deposit. When your deposit transaction is complete, you’re in the game.”)

Once the player registered, there was no limit to the period of time in which he or she could play games at the Web site, as long as he or she replenished his or her deposit account. (D.I. 17-5, p. 5.) Mr. Rosenthal simply concludes that the subscription requirement of the claims is met because the reference discloses “Download Software and Register” and Register for a game.” (D.I. 17, p. 10, ¶ 50.) Mr. Rosenthal ignores that the claim requires the subscription-based player be charged a membership fee for a predetermined period of time.

Mr. Rosenthal further speculates that the “charging each player a fee for a pre-determined membership time period” limitation is met because the reference, e.g., mentions “My Credit Card Charged” and that this “inherently means that a fee is charged.” (D.I. 17, p. 10, ¶ 51.) Clearly, Mr. Rosenthal has taken this disclosure out of context because all that it means is that a player could use a credit card to pay the deposit account amount. (*See D.I. 17-6, p. 4*) (“In Bugsy’s Club: you will be asked for your credit card details every time you make a deposit.”). Despite Mr. Rosenthal’s conclusions to the contrary, the deposit amount is not a subscription fee for a pre-determined membership period.

All of the claims of the ‘154 patent also require the step of “hosting at least one game tournament for subscription-based players . . . during the membership time period.” Since the Bugsy’s Club.com Web site did not have “subscription-based players” and there was no “predetermined membership time period,” the Bugsy’s Club.com Web site did not host “at least one game tournament for subscription-based players . . . during the membership time period.” Mr. Rosenthal ignores the majority of the terms in this limitation and concludes that the Bugsy’s Club.com Web site disclosed this step because “Poker is a game of chance and skill.” (D.I. 17, p. 10, ¶ 52.) Clearly, Mr. Rosenthal has left out some significant detail.

All of the claims of the ‘154 patent further require the step of “providing a means for allowing a non-subscription player to participate in the tournament without payment of the fee.” Again, because there was no subscription fee to play Real Money games at the Bugsy’s Club.com Web site, this step is not disclosed. All players had to pay a buy-in. (D.I. 17-5, p. 5.) (“You need to deposit money into your Bugsy’s Club account to play in any Bugsy’s Club games.”). Thus, contrary to Mr. Rosenthal’s conclusion, there was no “Free Play” at the Bugsy’s Club.com Web site. (D.I. 17, p. 11, ¶ 57.) Because Mr. Rosenthal treats all three Web sites as one, he neglects to inform the Court that the “Free Play” disclosure in the

1 reference only applied to playing at the www.pokerpages.com Web site, a completely different Web site.
 2 (See D.I. 17-8, pp. 3-5.) The only Web site out of the three that offered “Free Play” was
 3 www.pokerpages.com. (D.I. 17-8, pp. 3-5.) *See also* Supp. Noah Decl., Exhibit F.

4 Finally, even if the foregoing limitation of the ‘154 patent claim was disclosed in
 5 Bugsysclub.com, Defendant has provided no evidence that the Bugsysclub.com Web site described the
 6 feature that the “non-subscription player was limited to one entry per tournament.” Mr. Rosenthal
 7 contends that this limitation is met because the reference he submits, which discusses all three Web
 8 sites, discloses: “Only one account at any time.” (D.I. 17, p. 11, ¶ 59; 17-5, p. 3.) However, all that this
 9 statement means is that a player can only have one account at a time. This statement indicates nothing
 10 about any player being limited to “one entry per tournament.”

11 ii. **Pokerschoolonline.com**

12 The poker schoolonline.com Web site also fails to anticipate the claims of the ‘154 patent. Only
 13 registered players who paid a monthly or annual membership could play on this Web site. (Supp. Noah
 14 Decl., Exhibit F.) In other words, a non-subscriber could not play in the same games as the subscribers
 15 “by submitting information relating to the player.” Thus, the poker schoolonline.com Web site does not
 16 provide a “means for allowing a non-subscription player to participate in the tournament without
 17 payment of the fee by submitting information relating to the non-subscription player.” Because there
 18 were no non-subscribers, the poker schoolonline.com Web site did not have the feature that a “non-
 19 subscription player is limited to one entry per tournament.” Because these limitations were not present
 20 on the poker schoolonline.com Web site, it fails to anticipate the claims of the ‘154 patent.

21 iii. **Pokerpages.com**

22 Like Bugsysclub.com and poker schoolonline.com, the pokerpages.com Web site also fails to
 23 anticipate the claims of the ‘154 patent. The pokerpages.com Web site did not offer a subscription-
 24 based membership. (D.I. 17-8, pp. 3-5.) (Supp. Noah Decl., Exhibit F.) (“PokerPages is the freeplay
 25 section of the software. . .”) Therefore, the Web site did not charge “a fee for a predetermined
 26 membership time period.” Further, because there were no subscribers, the pokerpages.com Web site did
 27 not host “at least one game tournament for subscription-based players.” Defendant has also failed to
 28 provide any evidence that the pokerpages.com Web site had the feature that a “non-subscription player”

1 is limited to one entry per tournament. Because these limitations were not present on the
 2 pokerpages.com Web site, it fails to anticipate the claims of the '154 patent.

3 **b. Herrmann et al., '634 patent Publication**

4 The Herrmann et al., '634 patent publication ("Herrmann") attached as Exhibit D to Mr.
 5 Rosenthal's declaration fails to anticipate any of the claims of the '154 patent. All of the claims of the
 6 '154 patent expressly require "a game that has elements of chance and skill." (D.I. 9-2, p. 15, col. 11,
 7 lines 38-39 and col. 12, lines 17-18.) The specification of the '154 patent expressly distinguishes
 8 between games of chance and games of both chance and skill. (D.I. 9-2, p. 12, col. 6, lines 14-16.)
 9 Further, all of the claims of the '154 patent expressly require that the "player is required to make choices
 10 throughout the game." (D.I. 9-2, p. 15, col. 11, lines 44-45 and col. 12, lines 23-24.)

11 Herrmann is completely inapposite since it is expressly limited to games of chance that were
 12 adapted from games of chance and skill. As disclosed in Herrmann:

13 According to various embodiments of the invention, **games that**
 14 **ordinarily involve skill of a player are converted to games of chance.** These games may be, for example, blackjack, poker, dominoes and other
 15 games of skill and chance. **By eliminating skill** involved in playing the game, the game becomes more accessible to others who are unfamiliar
 16 with the rules, and the game play becomes faster, as **decision**
 17 **components by the player are removed.** . . . These games may also be automatically played and/or betted by computer on behalf of a player. As
 18 discussed, such games may be played in a legal manner outside of a legal jurisdiction (e.g., in a casino) **if the player's skill is removed** from impacting the odds of winning. (D.I. 17-11, p. 17, ¶ 0051.) (Emphasis added.)

21 Thus, Herrmann clearly discloses that it does not apply to games of chance and skill that require
 22 the player to make decisions throughout the game as is recited in the claims of the '154 patent.

23 Mr. Rosenthal's declaration completely glosses over these important distinctions. According to
 24 Mr. Rosenthal, the requirement of games of chance and skill "is disclosed in the entire specification of
 25 both Exhibits D and E in that blackjack and poker are such games." (D.I. 17, p. 15, ¶ 87.) Mr.
 26 Rosenthal further states that "[g]ames inherently require choices throughout the game and thus this
 27 requirement is disclosed throughout the specification" despite Herrmann's clear teachings that it is not
 28 directed to games that require a player to make choices. (D.I. 17, p. 15, ¶ 90.) Had Mr. Rosenthal read

1 Herrmann carefully, he would have learned that these two limitations of the ‘154 patent claims are not
 2 disclosed and that Herrmann is expressly limited to games of chance as opposed to games of chance and
 3 skill.

4 All of the claims of the ‘154 patent further require the step of “establishing a subscription-based
 5 membership for each player of the plurality of players by charging each player a fee for a pre-determined
 6 membership time period.” As properly interpreted, the “fee for a pre-determined membership time
 7 period” means that a player is charged a fee that enables the player to play for a fixed period of time
 8 regardless of the number of games played during that period. (D.I. 9-2, p. 12, col. 6, lines 31-35.)
 9 According to the specification of the ‘154 patent, this is different than a fee that is paid for a particular
 10 number of games. (D.I. 9-2, p. 12, col. 6, lines 35-37.) Because of this difference, the ‘154 patent
 11 claims specifically recite that the fee is for a predetermined membership period, not for a particular
 12 number of games.

13 In distinction, Herrmann discloses creating a “subscription to play a number of games.” (D.I. 17-
 14 11, p. 13, ¶ 0021 and p. 17, ¶ 0053.) Mr. Rosenthal makes the broad leap that this disclosure
 15 “presupposes a predetermined time period.” (D.I. 17, pp. 14-15.) However, as explained in the ‘154
 16 patent, a subscription to play a number of games is not the same thing as a subscription for a fixed period
 17 of time, regardless of the number of games played during that period.

18 Because there is no “predetermined membership time period” disclosed in Herrmann, there is no
 19 disclosure of “hosting at least one game tournament for subscription-based players . . . during the
 20 membership time period.” In other words, there are no “subscription-based players” and there are no
 21 tournaments “during the membership time period.” According to the claims of the ‘154 patent, the game
 22 tournaments that the subscribers can play in must correlate to the subscriber’s membership period.

23 The claims of the ‘154 patent further require that the “non-subscription player is limited to one
 24 entry per tournament.” Herrmann does not disclose this limitation. According to Mr. Rosenthal, the
 25 reference discloses that “AMOE entry may be limited to one game in a period of one year.” (D.I. 17, p.
 26 16, ¶ 94.) However, this statement by Mr. Rosenthal does not translate into a disclosure that the non-
 27 subscription player is limited to one entry per tournament. Simply because the AMOE in Herrmann may

28

1 be limited to one game, does not mean the AMOE cannot make more than one entry into that game. A
 2 single entry into a game, and entry into a single game, are two very different concepts.

3 Finally, all of the claims of the '154 patent require that the prize pool be disbursed to "the
 4 winning player and any eligible runner-up players . . . subsequent to the completion of the tournament."
 5 Herrmann is completely silent with respect to disbursing the prize pool to any eligible runner-up players.
 6 Herrmann only mentions paying out to the "winners." Mr. Rosenthal in his declaration overlooks this
 7 limitation of the claims and merely concludes that "[p]ayout to the winner is automatic." (D.I. 17, p. 16,
 8 ¶ 95.) This statement selected by Mr. Rosenthal fails to establish that the claim limitation is disclosed in
 9 Herrmann.

10 In short, because Herrmann fails to disclose many of the limitations of the '154 patents,
 11 Defendant's defense that Herrmann anticipates the '154 patent claims lacks substantial merit.

12 **c. Patterson, '126 Patent Publication**

13 The only similarity between the Patterson, '126 patent publication ("Patterson") and the claims of
 14 the '154 patent is that they both relate to online gaming over a computer network for subscribers.
 15 However, that is where the similarity ends. In distinction, Patterson is directed to a system and method
 16 for managing and linking network accounts to share access privileges.

17 There is no disclosure in Patterson of "hosting at least one game tournament for subscription-
 18 based players that has elements of both chance and skill." Indeed, there are no particular games
 19 disclosed in Patterson. Mr. Rosenthal simply concludes that a "gaming environment typically with
 20 consoles, such as the Sony PlayStation, has games and tournaments, and these games have
 21 characteristics of chance and skill." (D.I. 17, p. 20, ¶ 122.) This does not constitute a disclosure of
 22 hosting games of chance and skill, expressly or inherently. To establish inherency, the extrinsic
 23 evidence "must make clear that the missing descriptive matter is necessarily present in the thing
 24 described in the reference, and that it would be so recognized by persons of ordinary skill in the art."
25 Schering Corporation v. Geneva Pharmaceuticals, Inc., 348 F.3d 992, 995 (Fed. Cir. 2003)(Citation
 26 omitted).

27 Mr. Rosenthal has failed to establish that the missing games of chance and skill are necessarily
 28 present in Patterson. Notably, this lack of inherency is confirmed by Mr. Millar in his declaration

1 wherein he indicates that online games that involve elements of chance have to meet certain
 2 requirements in order to be legal. (D.I. 15, pp. 5-6, ¶¶ 10-11.) There is no disclosure in Patterson that
 3 would necessarily lead to the inescapable conclusion that the gaming environment described therein
 4 included games of chance and skill because the reference discloses nothing about the legality of any
 5 online games. Thus, Defendant has failed to demonstrate that this limitation is inherently disclosed in
 6 Patterson.

7 Patterson also fails to disclose the step of establishing “a prize pool for the tournament.”
 8 Remarkably, Mr. Rosenthal concludes that this limitation of the ‘154 patent claims is disclosed in
 9 Patterson because “games played on consoles establish prize pools for tournaments.” (D.I. 17, p. 21, ¶
 10 126.) Again, Mr. Rosenthal has provided no evidence that games played on consoles necessarily
 11 established prize pools for tournaments. Therefore, contrary to Mr. Rosenthal’s speculation, this
 12 limitation is not disclosed in Patterson expressly or inherently.

13 The ‘154 patent claims further require the step of allowing a non-subscription player to
 14 participate in the tournament without payment of the fee “by submitting information related to the non-
 15 subscription player.” Patterson fails to disclose this step. According to Mr. Rosenthal, “the online
 16 environment permits users to create non-member accounts if they do not have a subscription. This
 17 limited member access allows the non-member (non-subscriber) to participate in the same game or
 18 tournament as the subscribing members.” (D.I. 17, p. 21, ¶ 127.) Mr. Rosenthal is wrong and has self-
 19 servingly selected portions of Patterson in attempt to support his position. Set forth below, is an excerpt
 20 from Patterson from which Mr. Rosenthal clearly derived his conclusion:

21
 22 The online environment permits users to create non-member accounts if they do not have
 23 subscriptions. A non-member account provides a user with general access, but does not
 24 provide member access. The second user creates a non-member account in the online
 25 environment. Because the second user has a non-member account and does not have
member access, the second user cannot immediately participate in an ordinary online
game. (D.I. 17-12, pp. 71-72, ¶ 0016.)(Emphasis added.)

26 The portion that Mr. Rosenthal conveniently failed to mention to the Court is that the second user
 27 “cannot immediately participate in an ordinary game” once the user creates a “non-member account.”
 28 Unlike the claims of the ‘154 patent, which enable a non-subscription player to participate in a

1 tournament by submitting information relating to the player, the second user must find another user that
 2 is willing to let the second user “link” to his account before the second user can participate in an online
 3 game. (D.I. 17-12, p. 72, ¶¶ 0017-0019.) Once the accounts are linked, the second user can play in an
 4 online game. *Id.* Therefore, in Patterson a non-subscription player cannot participate in the tournament
 5 without paying a fee by submitting information only as required by the claims of the ‘154 patent. It is
 6 indisputable that Patterson does not disclose this limitation of the claims of the ‘154 patent.

7 The claims of the ‘154 patent further require that the “non-subscription player is limited to one
 8 entry per tournament.” Mr. Rosenthal again makes the broad leap that the disclosure in Patterson that
 9 “one limited use link allows only one use” is a disclosure of this limitation. (D.I. 17, p. 21, ¶ 129.) As
 10 described in Patterson, a limited use link is a link that enables the non-member user to request a set
 11 number of services. (D.I. 17-12, p. 76, ¶ 0075.) An example of a service is “participating in an online
 12 game.” (D.I. 17-12, p. 73, ¶¶ 0026-0040.) However, as explained above in connection with Herrmann,
 13 this disclosure does not translate into a disclosure that the non-member player is limited to one entry into
 14 that online game.

15 Lastly, the ‘154 patent claims require disbursing the prize pool to the winning player and any
 16 eligible runner-up players in the form of prizes that have immediate value. According to Mr. Rosenthal,
 17 this limitation is disclosed in Patterson because “[i]n console game competitions and tournaments, the
 18 prize pool is disbursed as a prize that has immediate value subsequent to the completion of the
 19 tournament. (D.I. 17, p. 21, ¶ 130.) Mr. Rosenthal’s conclusion fails for a number of reasons. First,
 20 Patterson is silent with respect to establishing a prize pool and, therefore, is necessarily silent with
 21 respect to disbursing prizes that have immediate value. Again, Mr. Rosenthal has provided no evidence
 22 that console game tournaments played over a network necessarily establish a prize pool. Second, Mr.
 23 Rosenthal neglects to mention prizes for “eligible runner-up players.” There is absolutely no disclosure
 24 in Patterson of prizes for eligible runner-up players. It is worth noting that Mr. Rosenthal did not
 25 overlook the significance of the runner-up players when he needed them to try and support his
 26 conclusions on the issue of infringement. Now, when the runner-up players do not support his
 27 conclusion on the issue of validity, he conveniently ignores them.

1 Patterson fails to anticipate the claims of the '154 patent since it fails to disclose all of the
 2 limitations of the claims. Defendant's conjecture that the technology of Patterson "could be applied to
 3 games having characteristics of cards, poker, fees, tokens and prizes" does not satisfy the requirements
 4 of anticipation. (D.I. 14, p. 11.)

5 **2. None of the References Cited By Defendant Alone**
 6 **or in Combination With Other Prior Art Renders**
 7 **The Claims of the '154 Patent Invalid as Obvious**

8 A general methodology for conducting the obviousness analysis was described by the Supreme
 Court in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 17 (1966) as follows:

9
 10 Under § 103, the scope and content of the prior art are to be determined;
 11 differences between the prior art and the claims at issue are to be
 12 ascertained; and the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art resolved.
 13 Against this background, the obviousness or nonobviousness of the subject
 14 matter is determined.

15 The Supreme Court has recently held that these *Graham* factors "continue to define the inquiry
 16 that controls. *KSR Int'l Co. v. Teleflex Inc.*, 550 U.S. ___, 127 S. Ct. 1727, 1734 (2007).

17 Mr. Rosenthal failed to perform this required inquiry. Mr. Rosenthal merely concludes that "I
 18 consider that the disclosures of Exhibits C, D, E and F are so related that any person skilled in the art
 19 would have combined them for their respective teachings, that there is a clear motivation and suggestion
 20 to combine them, and that overall, the results of these teachings are clearly predictable." (D.I. 17, pp.
 21 25-26, ¶ 156.) However, Mr. Rosenthal never addresses why these references would be combinable or
 22 even how they would be combined. Mr. Rosenthal's broad-brush approach should be rejected by the
 23 Court as an improper obviousness analysis.

24 Moreover, Mr. Rosenthal concludes that the '154 patent "is merely a standard game recipe" and a
 25 "common formula for games." (D.I. 17, p. 26, ¶ 158.) Mr. Rosenthal would have this Court believe that
 26 it can simply ignore that the claims are directed to a method of allowing a plurality of players to play a
 27 game over a computer network, which contain certain features and characteristics. To this end, Mr.
 28 Rosenthal believes that the claims of the '154 patent would have been obvious over a bowling, golf or
 tennis league as well as a Little League baseball game. (D.I. 17, p. 26, ¶ 159; D.I. 17-6, pp. 21-22.) This
 proposition demonstrates Mr. Rosenthal's lack of a thorough and reasoned analysis of the scope and

1 content of the prior art and the differences between the prior art and the claims of the '154 patent.

2 Further, Mr. Rosenthal's conclusion that there was a "clear" motivation or suggestion to combine
 3 the references he cited in Exhibits C-F of his declaration is wrong. For the reasons explained below, the
 4 references actually teach away from their combination. *Tec Air, Inc. v. Denso Manufacturing Michigan*
 5 *Inc.*, 192 F.3d 1353, 1360 (Fed. Cir. 1999) ("There is no suggestion to combine . . . if a reference teaches
 6 away from its combination with another source.")

7 **a. Bugsy়sclub.com, Pokerschoolonline.com and Pokerpages.com**

8 For example, the Bugsy়sclub.com, pokerschoolonline.com and pokerpages.com Web sites
 9 actually teach away from their combination. These three Web sites, although accessible by using the
 10 same software, are three distinct Web sites with three distinct product offerings and each have a different
 11 focus. If there was a "clear" motivation or suggestion to combine the features of these Web sites, then
 12 there would not have been three separate Web sites that were accessible using the same software; there
 13 would have only been one. There would have been no benefit to modifying any of these three Web sites
 14 to include features from the others since the whole intent was to have different Web sites each having a
 15 different focus. *KSR Int'l*, 127 S. Ct. at 1794. The purpose of the Bugsy়sclub.com Web site was to
 16 enable players to play for real money by buying into tournaments. The purpose of the
 17 pokerschoolonline.com Web site was for players to pay a subscription fee so that they can play online
 18 and improve their skills. The purpose of pokerpages.com was to enable players to play for free and risk
 19 no money. There would have been no reason to modify any of these Web sites to include features from
 20 the others. In fact, all three of these Web sites exist today in essentially the same configuration as they
 21 did in 2003.

22 **b. Herrmann et al., '634 Patent Publication**

23 Herrmann also teaches away from modifying it or combining it with any one of the other cited
 24 references to arrive at the invention claimed in the '154 patent. Indeed, Herrmann expressly teaches
 25 adapting a game of chance from a game of chance and skill so as to eliminate the element of skill from
 26 the game. (D.I. 17-11, p. 12, ¶ 0015.) The computer automatically plays the game according to a
 27 predetermined set of rules. (D.I. 17-11, p. 13, ¶ 0024.) To combine the teachings of Herrmann with any
 28 of the other references cited by Defendant or to modify the reference itself to include games of chance

1 and skill, would require completely changing the system and method described in Herrmann. There
 2 would be no benefit to modifying Herrmann to include games of chance and skill since the computer
 3 actually plays the game according to a predetermined set of rules. Likewise, there would be no benefit to
 4 removing the element of skill from the games played on Bugsysclub.com, pokeriscoolonline.com,
 5 pokerpages.com or Patterson. *KSR Int'l*, 127 S. Ct. at 1744. Thus, Herrmann actually teaches away
 6 from combining it with any of the other references.

7 **c. Patterson, '126 Patent Publication**

8 Finally, with respect to Patterson, the account linking and management features described in this
 9 reference are so completely different from those in the other references cited by Defendant that the
 10 reference is not properly combinable with any of the other references cited by Defendant. The whole
 11 purpose of the methods and apparatus disclosed in Patterson is to manage and link network accounts to
 12 share access privileges among accounts. There would have been no benefit to modify the access
 13 methodologies employed by any of the other references to include the ability to manage and link network
 14 accounts to share privileges. Modifying the system to allow players to share access privileges is contrary
 15 to the purpose of the access procedures described in those references. Indeed, in Herrmann both
 16 subscription and non-subscription players already can enter the same game.

17 In short, Mr. Rosenthal's conclusory, unsupported statements and flawed analysis fail to establish
 18 a substantial question of invalidity based upon obviousness. To that end, Plaintiff has shown that
 19 Defendant's obviousness assertions lack substantial merit and that Plaintiff is likely to succeed on the
 20 issue of validity of the '154 patent.

21 **C. PLAINTIFF HAS NOT COMMITTED INEQUITABLE CONDUCT**

22 To show inequitable conduct, one must prove by clear and convincing evidence that the patentee
 23 failed to disclose material information to the PTO and that the patentee did so with the intent to deceive
 24 the PTO. *Juicy Whip, Inc. v. Orange Bang, Inc.*, 292 F.3d 728, 744 (Fed. Cir. 2002)(citations omitted).

25 Plaintiff did not fail to disclose any information to the Patent Office during the prosecution of the
 26 '154 patent. Remarkably, Defendant contends that Plaintiff "purposefully prevent[ed] the Examiner
 27 from considering material prior art submitted by the Applicants." (D.I. 14, p. 14.) In other words,

1 Defendant acknowledges that Plaintiff submitted the prior art, yet it claims that Plaintiff somehow
 2 "prevented" the Examiner from considering the art. This makes no sense.

3 In brief, during the prosecution, applicants submitted an Information Disclosure Statement
 4 ("IDS") and a Form PTO-1449, which simply listed the prior art being submitted. Two of the citations
 5 on the Form PTO-1449 contained typographical errors. Specifically, the Document Number for
 6 Reference A6 read "200400248634 A1" instead of "2004/0248634 A1." Likewise, the Document
 7 Number for Reference A15 read "2001/000469 A1" instead of "2001/0004609." (D.I. 17-17, p. 6.)
 8 However, it is indisputable that Plaintiff submitted copies of each one of the references cited on the
 9 Form PTO-1449 to the Patent Office as expressly indicated on the IDS itself. (Supp. Noah Decl.,
 10 Exhibit L.) In fact, the Examiner apparently used the hard copies of the references submitted by
 11 applicants to determine that there were typographical errors on the Form PTO-1449. (D.I. 17-17, p.
 12 3.) ("the information provided for reference A6 and A15 . . . does not match . . . information reported
 13 thereon") It is disingenuous for Defendant to contend that applicants intended to deceive the Patent
 14 Office when it indisputably provided the Patent Office with a copy of all the references listed on the
 15 Form PTO-1449.

16 More importantly, in its haste to find some basis for an inequitable conduct defense, Defendant
 17 overlooked the fact that the Examiner did, in fact, consider the Walker reference attached as Exhibit N to
 18 Mr. Rosenthal's declaration. Applicants submitted, and the Examiner considered, U.S. Patent No.
 19 6,425,828 ("Walker '828"), which is the patent that ultimately issued from the application cited by Mr.
 20 Rosenthal in his declaration. (Supp. Noah Decl., Exhibit G.) In addition, the Examiner cited U.S. Patent
 21 No. 5,779,459 ("Walker '459"), which is the great-grandparent application to the application cited by
 22 Mr. Rosenthal in his declaration and Walker '828 and contains the same specification. (D.I. 17-17, p. 7.)
 23 In view of these facts Defendant did not investigate, Defendant cannot deny that the Walker reference
 24 cited by Mr. Rosenthal was disclosed and considered by the Examiner. Incidentally, the Examiner
 25 expressly stated in the Notice of Allowability that Walker '459 was not material to the claims of the '154
 26 patent. (D.I. 17-17, p. 4.)

27 In short, Defendant's inequitable conduct allegations are a woefully inadequate attempt to create
 28 a defense to its infringement when no such defense exists. It is indisputable that Plaintiff disclosed

1 copies of the two references to the Patent Office and thus, as a matter of law, did not commit inequitable
 2 conduct. *Fiskars, Inc. v. Hunt manufacturing Co.*, 221 F. 3d 1318, 1327-28 (Fed. Cir. 2000).

3 **D. NOT ONLY IS IRREPARABLE HARM PRESUMED HERE,
 4 BUT PLAINTIFF HAS ESTABLISHED THAT IT WILL SUFFER
 5 ACTUAL IRREPARABLE HARM IF AN INJUNCTION IS DENIED.**

6 As set forth above, Plaintiff has established a strong likelihood of success on the merits, which
 7 gives rise to the presumption of irreparable harm. *Oakley, Inc.*, 316 F.3d at 1345. In addition to the
 8 presumption, Plaintiff would suffer actual irreparable harm if Defendant is not enjoined. Predictably, the
 9 thrust of Defendant's opposition is that Plaintiff's damages from Defendant's infringement are easily
 10 calculable by "using generally accepted accounting principles" and thus compensable by an adequate
 11 remedy at law. (D.I. 15, p. 3, ¶ 6). However, Defendant's simplistic argument ignores the unique
 12 conditions extant in the market, a factor that Courts have long recognized as giving rise to uncertain
 13 injury, the hallmark of irreparable harm. *Hybritech Inc. v. Abbott Laboratories*, 849 F.2d 1446, 1456
 14 (Fed. Cir. 1988). Since there can be no doubt that Plaintiff and Defendant are competing for the same
 15 customers in the same market, the unique market conditions present in this case provide a compelling
 16 basis for the issuance of the preliminary injunction.

17 As explained in its opening brief, Plaintiff's ability to succeed in the online poker market
 18 requires that Plaintiff achieve "critical mass" or "player liquidity" before the other market entrants, a key
 19 factor confirmed by the extremely relevant experiences of www.partypoker.com, the prior market
 20 leader. (Supp. Kellerman Decl., ¶¶ 8-9, Exhibit H, p. 25.) In fact, if not enjoined, Defendant's millions
 21 of dollars of impending advertising and marketing expenditures that are specifically designed to drive
 22 players to Defendant's Web sites would deprive Plaintiff of the opportunity to achieve critical mass at
 23 this unique and important juncture in the market, an opportunity permanently lost to Defendant once the
 24 market matures. (D.I. 8, pp. 2-3, ¶ 7.) This harm cannot be adequately compensated with money
 25 damages.

26 **E. PLAINTIFF DOES NOT HAVE UNCLEAN
 27 HANDS BECAUSE ITS WEB SITE IS LEGAL**

28 Plaintiff has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars in attorneys fees in making sure that its Web
 site is legal. (Supp. Kellerman Decl., ¶ 13.) To that end, Plaintiff obtained the advice and

recommendations from two of the world's leading gaming attorneys. (Supp. Kellerman Decl., ¶ 13.) Unfortunately, these attorneys cannot submit a declaration on Plaintiff's behalf to contradict Mr. Millar because both of them represent Defendant and have advised Mr. Millar concerning the legality of Defendant's Web sites. (Supp. Kellerman Decl., ¶ 13.) However, Plaintiff submits herewith the legal opinion from one of these attorneys who confirms that Plaintiff's Web site is legal. (Supp. Kellerman Decl., Exhibit J.)

F. DEFENDANT'S BALANCE OF HARDSHIPS ARGUMENTIS INTERNALLY INCONSISTENT

Defendant goes to great lengths to try and demonstrate to the Court why its Web sites are legal and Plaintiff's are not. In doing so, Mr. Millar, Defendant's COO, CFO and General Counsel, describes in no uncertain terms that the principal source of its revenue is from its "Club" membership and its television show. (D.I. 15, pp. 3-4, ¶ 7.) According to Mr. Millar, Defendant does not "emphasize earning revenue by seeking payment in exchange for the opportunity to win by participating in an online game of chance." (D.I. 15, p. 6, ¶ 12.) Mr. Millar also says "The 'Club' promotes the magazine, the television show and offers other services which in the aggregate exceed the price charged for 'Club' membership which is \$19.95 per month. Therefore, it is the 'Club' membership that is valued at \$19.95, not the playing of our games." (D.I. 15, pp. 3-4, ¶ 7.)

Nevertheless, Mr. Millar contends that if Defendant was enjoined, it would suffer \$15 million in losses composed of "television production and related expenses of \$6 million, lost advertising revenue and barter value, overhead cost, marketing and redesigning totaling an additional \$9 million." (D.I. 15, p. 5, ¶ 9.) Mr. Millar has failed to provide any correlation between an injunction and this alleged potential loss. This is not surprising given Mr. Millar's admission that the value to Defendant's customers is not in the opportunity to play in online tournaments. (D.I. 15, pp. 3-4, ¶ 7.) In view of Mr. Millar's admission, it is disingenuous for Defendant to argue that the hardship it would suffer if enjoined would "vastly outweigh any hardships MMJK would suffer." (D.I. 14, p. 17.)

It is important to note that Plaintiff is not asking the Court to shut down Defendant's web sites. Rather, Plaintiff is only seeking to enjoin Defendant from hosting online game tournaments that pay out prizes that have immediate value (i.e., cash, cash-equivalent notes and objects) to the winners and

1 require entrants to either pay a subscription fee or utilize an “alternative means of entry” to enter.
 2 Defendant would certainly be able to continue to promote its magazine and television show and offer its
 3 “other services.” In addition, Defendant would still be able to host online game tournaments that did not
 4 pay out prizes having immediate value. It is interesting to note that in the estimation of the \$15 million
 5 in losses it claims justifies the bond amount, Defendant does not include any lost revenue from not being
 6 able to host the tournaments at issue in this litigation. (D.I. 15, p. 5, ¶ 9.) Again, since Defendant’s
 7 business model does not emphasize attracting viewers to its “Club” for the opportunity to win by
 8 participating in an online game of chance, then any harm to Defendant as a result of not be able to host
 9 these particular types of tournaments should logically not outweigh the harm to Plaintiff if an injunction
 10 was denied.

G. A \$15 MILLION BOND IS EXCESSIVE

11 In granting a motion for preliminary injunction, the district court has wide discretion as to the
 12 amount of security required, if any. *Barahona-Gomez v. Reno*, 167 F.3d 1228, 1237 (9th Cir. 1999).
 13 Defendant’s request for \$15 million bond is excessive and inappropriate. Mr. Millar provides no
 14 evidence why Defendant would lose \$6 million of the \$15 million for television costs or \$9 million in
 15 television revenue and overhead marketing and redesigning costs if it could not host the particular online
 16 game tournaments at issue in this case. (D.I. 15, p. 5, ¶ 9.) Plaintiff believes that a bond in the amount
 17 of \$1 million or less would be appropriate in this case.
 18

III. CONCLUSION

19 For the reasons discussed above, this Court should grant Plaintiff’s motion for preliminary
 20 injunction.
 21

22 Dated: August 1, 2007

23 DERGOSITS & NOAH LLP

24 By: /s/ Todd A. Noah

25 Todd A. Noah

26 Attorneys for Plaintiff MMJK, INC.
 27